



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor

John Hoeven
Governor

September 1, 2006

The Honorable Mike Johanns
Secretary of Agriculture
15th & Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Johanns:

In North Dakota, much of our state's agriculture production has suffered from the detrimental impacts of hot and dry summer growing conditions. Additionally, the combination of excess early season moisture and severe summer storms had a negative impact on crop and pasture conditions in many parts of the state.

On July 6, 2006, I requested the Farm Service Agency (FSA) conduct damage assessments for all North Dakota counties due to poor crop conditions and crop loss reports. Specifically, the county Emergency Boards were asked to assess losses in crop production and quality in varying degrees due to a multitude of perils, including but not limited to, freeze damage, late spring snow storms, drought and general lack of timely precipitation, overland flooding, high temperatures, torrential rainfall, hail and high winds.

Based on the information contained in the enclosed Damage Assessment Reports (DARs) prepared by all North Dakota U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Emergency Boards, I formally request a Secretarial Disaster Designation for all North Dakota counties. The North Dakota USDA Emergency Board met today and recommended this designation since all 53 North Dakota counties reached the USDA threshold. The Disaster Emergency Designation will ensure that appropriate additional disaster assistance, to include emergency loan and debt restructuring programs through USDA or Small Business Administration (SBA) programs, can be made available to eligible producers and agricultural-related businesses.

We appreciate your acknowledgment of drought affecting North Dakota with your concurrence of my request to approve emergency haying and grazing on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) across the State for producers from counties which are very short of forage.

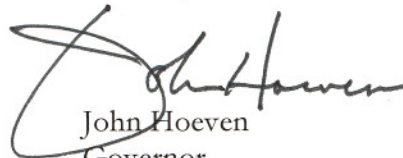
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Information contained in the Damage Assessment Report (DAR) provided the impetus for the State Emergency Board to recommend, by unanimous vote, that we seek a Secretarial Disaster Designation for all 53 counties: Adams, Barnes, Benson, Billings, Bottineau, Bowman, Burke, Burleigh, Cass, Cavalier, Dickey, Divide, Dunn, Eddy, Emmons, Foster, Golden Valley, Grand Forks, Grant, Griggs, Hettinger, Kidder, LaMoure, Logan, McHenry, McIntosh, McKenzie, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Mountrail, Nelson, Oliver, Pembina, Pierce, Ramsey, Ransom, Renville, Richland, Rolette, Sargent, Sheridan, Sioux, Slope, Stark, Steele, Stutsman, Towner, Traill, Walsh, Ward, Wells and Williams in North Dakota. The DAR indicates these counties meet criteria for either a 30 percent or greater crop loss countywide; or having one or more individual producers who had a 30 percent or greater crop loss and are unable to obtain credit from sources other than FSA.

I request that you act favorably upon the North Dakota USDA Emergency Board recommendation and my request for a Secretarial Disaster Declaration for all of the counties in North Dakota. Such action will help us work together to reduce hardships caused by the conditions described.

I appreciate your immediate attention to this request to ensure implementation of all essential assistance programs in a timely manner. Please contact Lance Gaebe in my office if you require additional information. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,



John Hoeven
Governor

Enclosure

cc: Gary J. Nelson, State Executive Director, N.D. Farm Service Agency, USDA
Roger Johnson, N.D. Commissioner of Agriculture
Honorable Byron Dorgan, U.S. Senate
Honorable Kent Conrad, U.S. Senate
Honorable Earl Pomeroy, U.S. House of Representatives
Greg Wilz, Director, North Dakota Division of Homeland Security

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